



# Marine Corps History



# Overview

- Marine Corps Terminology
- Historically Significant Places
- Significant Battles in Marine Corps History
- Historically Significant Marines
- Pathbreakers in Marine Corps History





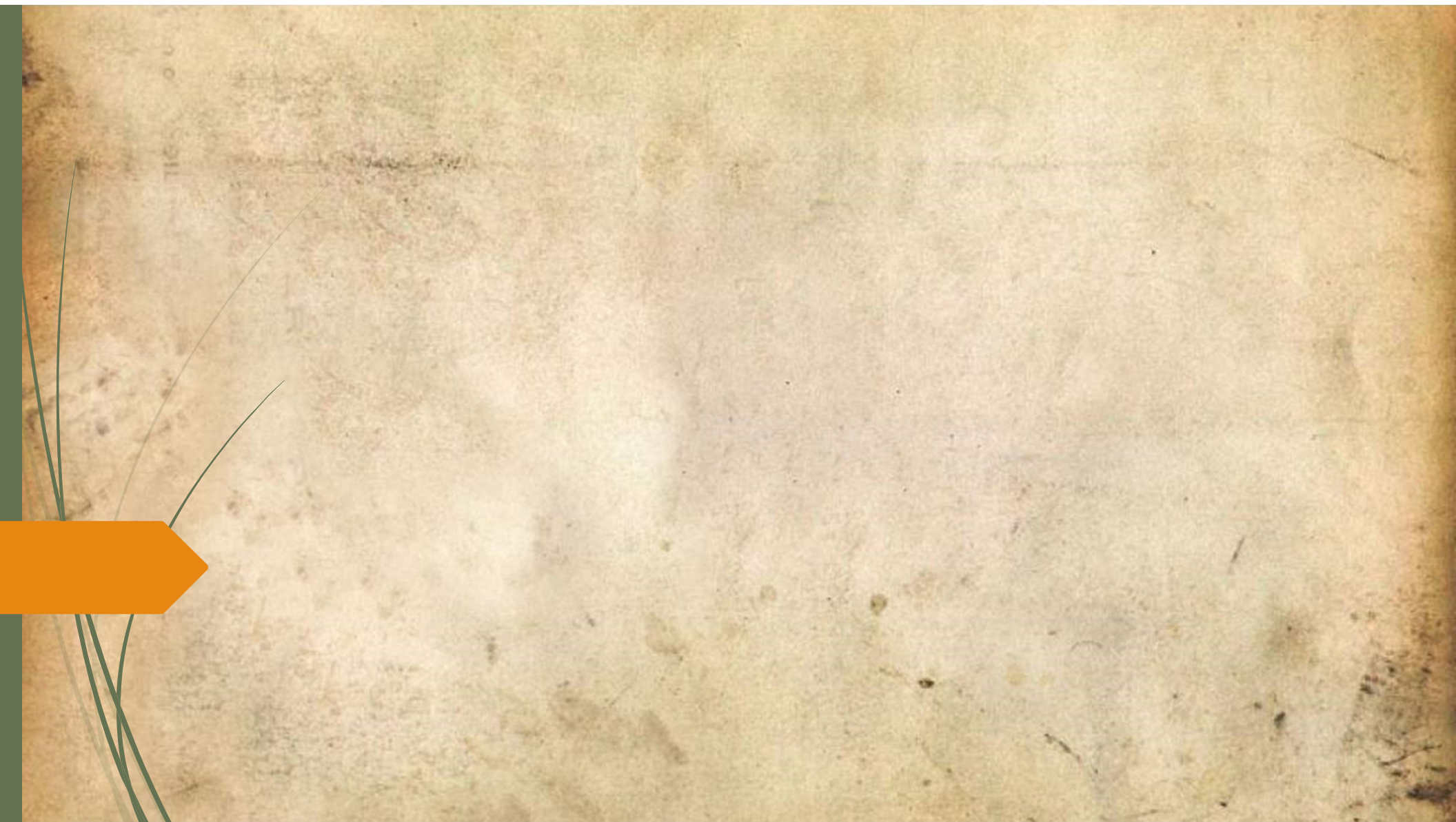
# Learning Objectives

Please Read Your

Terminal Learning Objectives

And

Enabling Learning Objectives





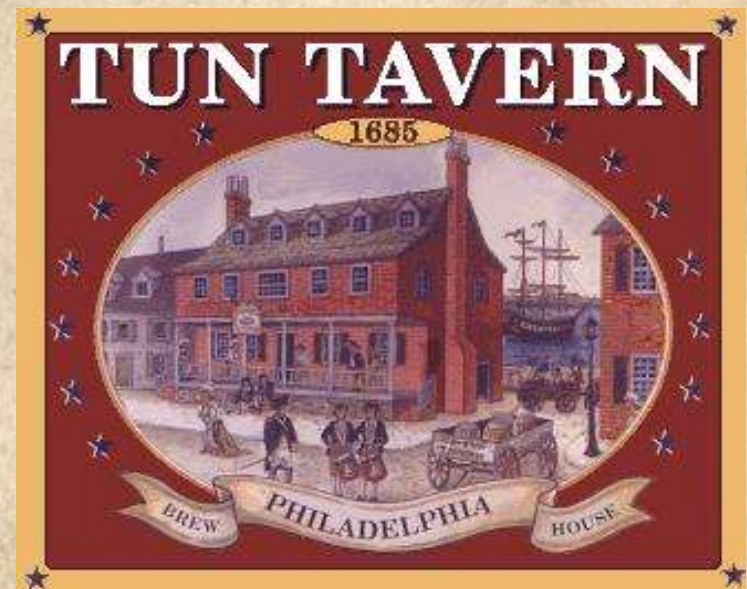


# Early Years of the Marine Corps

## 1775: Birth of the Marine Corps

Tun Tavern

- ▶ Birthplace of the Marine Corps
- ▶ Pennsylvania
- ▶ 10 November 1775





## 1775: Birth of the Marine Corps



Captain Samuel Nicholas

- ▶ First Commandant
- ▶ Raised two battalions of Marines by resolution of the Continental Congress on November

## 1805: “The Shores of Tripoli”

- ▶ Marines sent to destroy the Barbary Pirates for holding American ships ransom
- ▶ 100 Marines requested for attack, received 8. Built a mercenary force of roughly 500 Turks, Arabs, and Greeks and led a 500 mile march across open desert.
- ▶ Honored in Marines Hymn





## 1805: Lt Presley O'Bannon



- First Marine to hoist American flag over foreign soil in a time of war
- Awarded the Mameluke scimitar, the inspiration for modern officer's swords



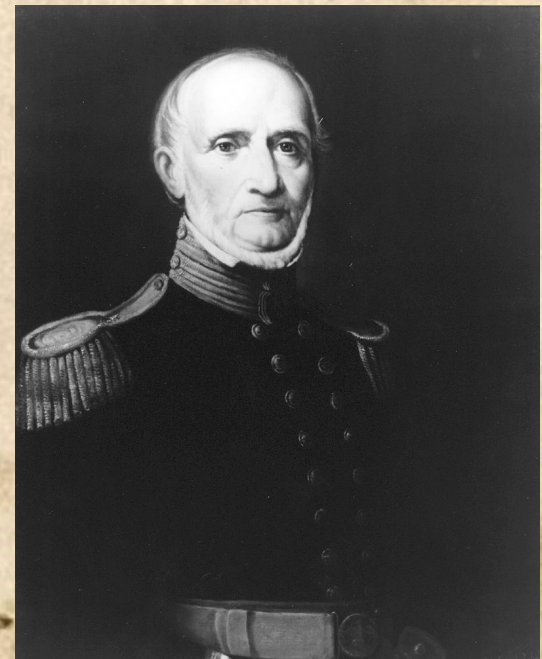
# Leatherneck

- Nickname derived from the leather collar worn by Marines
- Was there to keep heads erect



## 1820: Archibald Henderson

- ▶ “Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps”
- ▶ Commandant from 1820 to 1859
- ▶ Longest ever serving Commandant; lead the Marine Corps through four wars
- ▶ Increased professional standards of the USMC





# 1847: “The Halls of Montezuma”

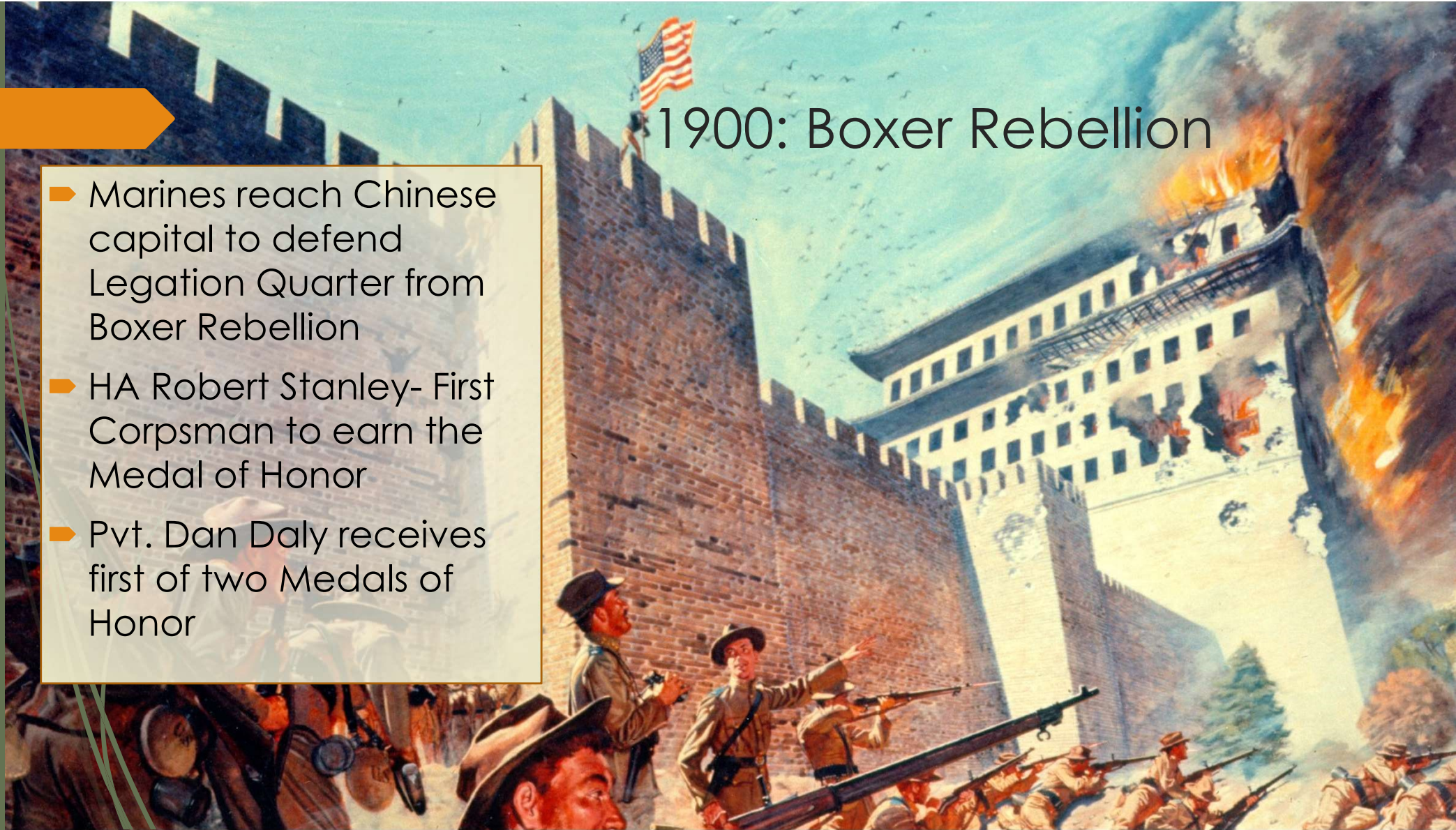
- Mexican War: Battle of Chapultepec
- Marines invade Mexico City
- Red “Blood Stripe” worn by NCO’s and Officer’s is tribute to this battle
- Honored in Marines Hymn



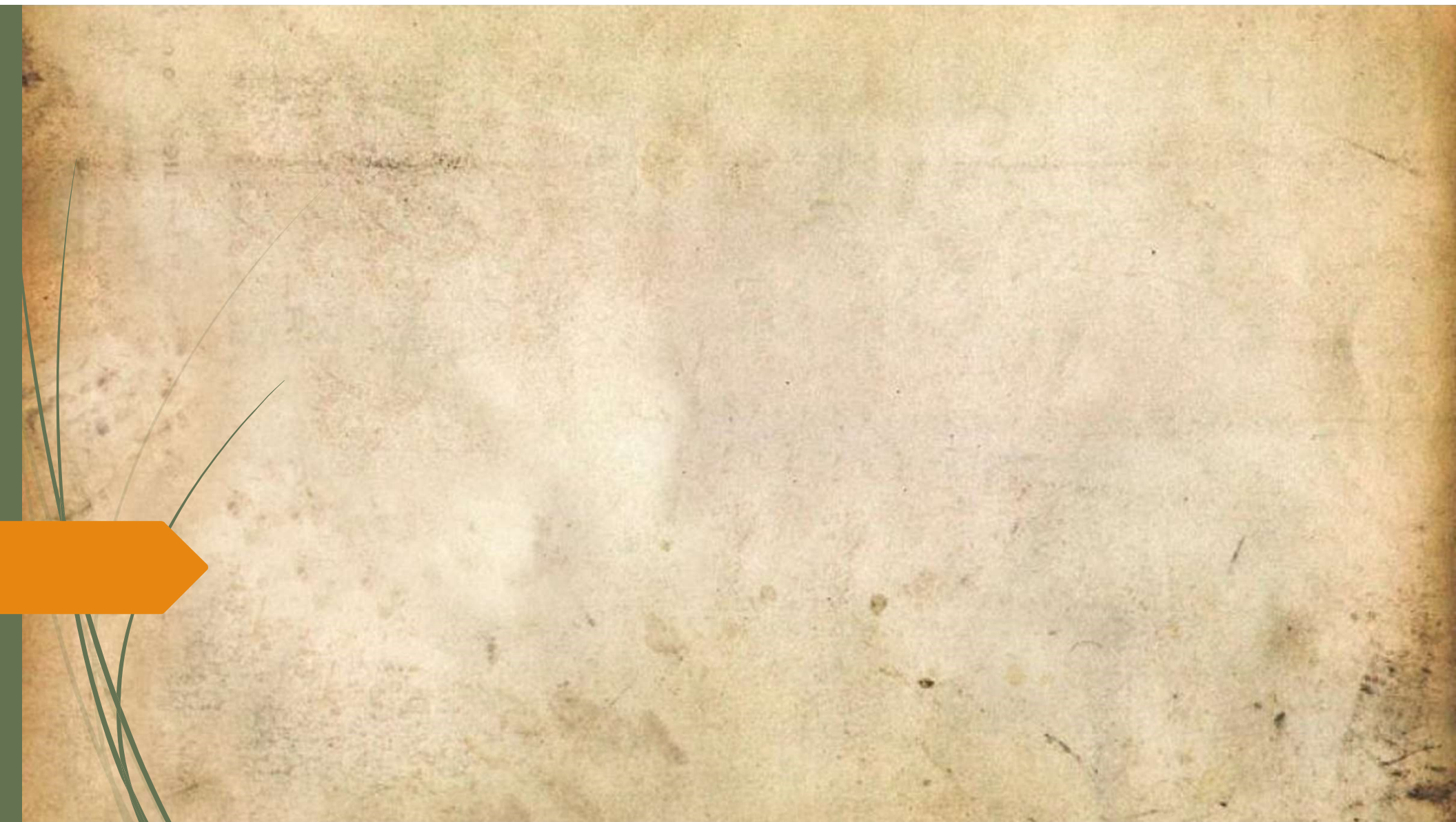


## 1900: Boxer Rebellion

- ▶ Marines reach Chinese capital to defend Legation Quarter from Boxer Rebellion
- ▶ HA Robert Stanley- First Corpsman to earn the Medal of Honor
- ▶ Pvt. Dan Daly receives first of two Medals of Honor











Semper Fidelis

**Corps Motto: Always Faithful  
Marine**

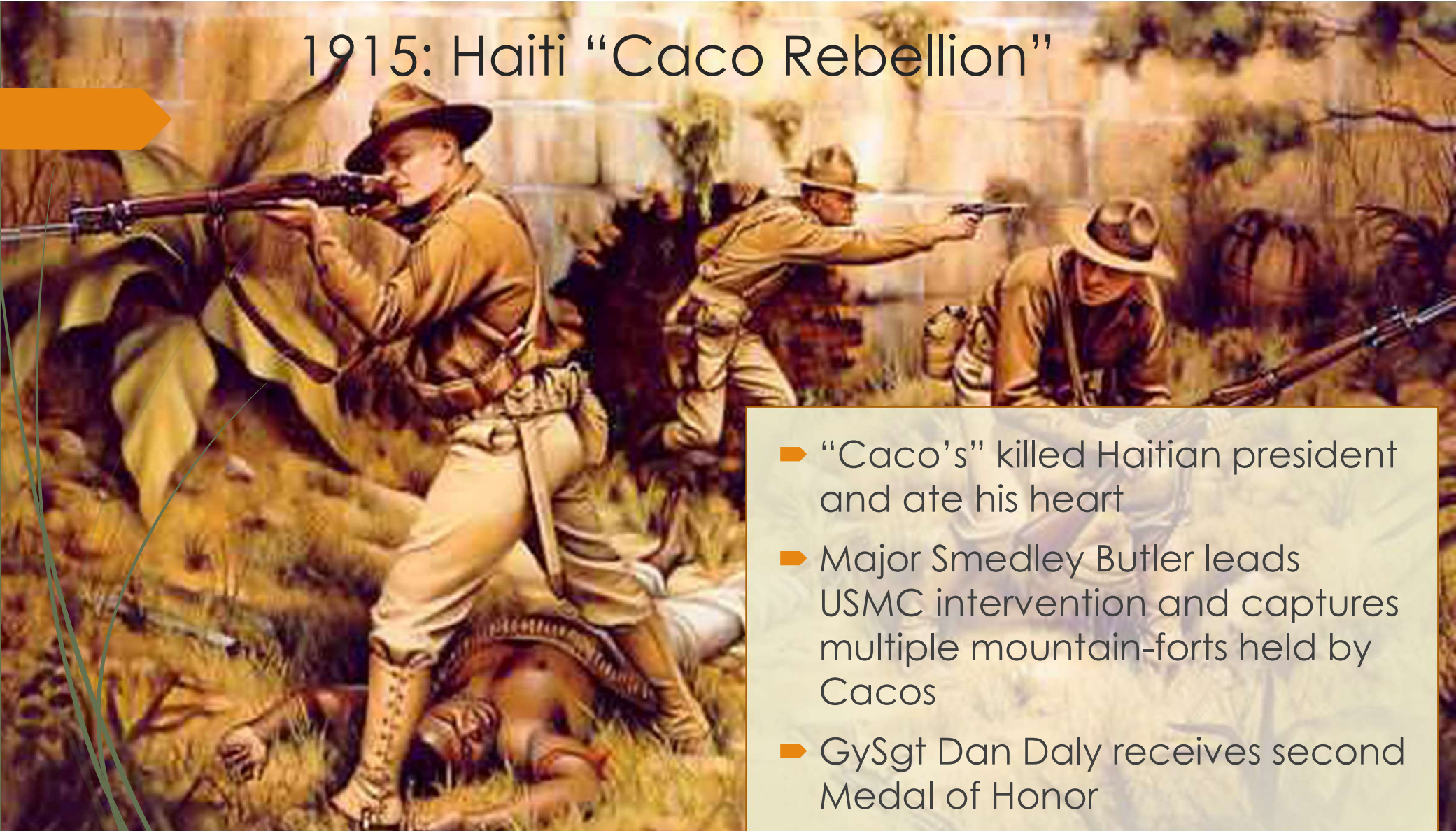
## 1913: First Aviator

- ▶ First Lieutenant Alfred Austell Cunningham
- ▶ Participated in a variety of missions over German lines during WWI





## 1915: Haiti “Caco Rebellion”



- “Caco’s” killed Haitian president and ate his heart
- Major Smedley Butler leads USMC intervention and captures multiple mountain-forts held by Cacos
- GySgt Dan Daly receives second Medal of Honor



## Dan Daly



- One of only two Marines to be awarded two Medals of Honor
- 1<sup>st</sup> – For actions during the Chinese Boxer Rebellion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – For actions during the First Caco War in Haiti
- Was also at the Battle of Belleau Wood
- Prior to leading a charge of German lines at Belleau Wood famously quoted as saying:

“Come on you son’s of bitches, do you want to live forever?”



# Smedley Butler



- Second Marine to be awarded two Medals of Honor
- 1<sup>st</sup> – For actions during the Veracruz campaign
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – For actions during the First Caco War in Haiti







# Espirit de Corps

- This is the devotion and loyalty that every Marine holds to our history, traditions, and honor
- The epitome of pride in the unit



USMC WWI





## 1918: Belleau Wood

- Belleau Wood, France - WWI
- Marines took over 50% casualties
- Marines stopped the German offensive that was threatening Paris

# 1918: Belleau Wood: Devil Dogs

- Translated from the German word 'Teufelhunden'
- Term was coined after the Battle of Belleau Wood.
- Was given by the German troops to describe the Marines' aggressive fighting style





## 1918: Woman Marines

- ▶ 1918 – The Secretary of the Navy allowed women to enroll for clerical duty
- ▶ 300 women enrolled in that first year
- ▶ 12 June 1948 - Women's Armed Services Integration Act
  - ▶ Made women a permanent part of the regular Marine Corps

## 1918: Opha Mae Johnson



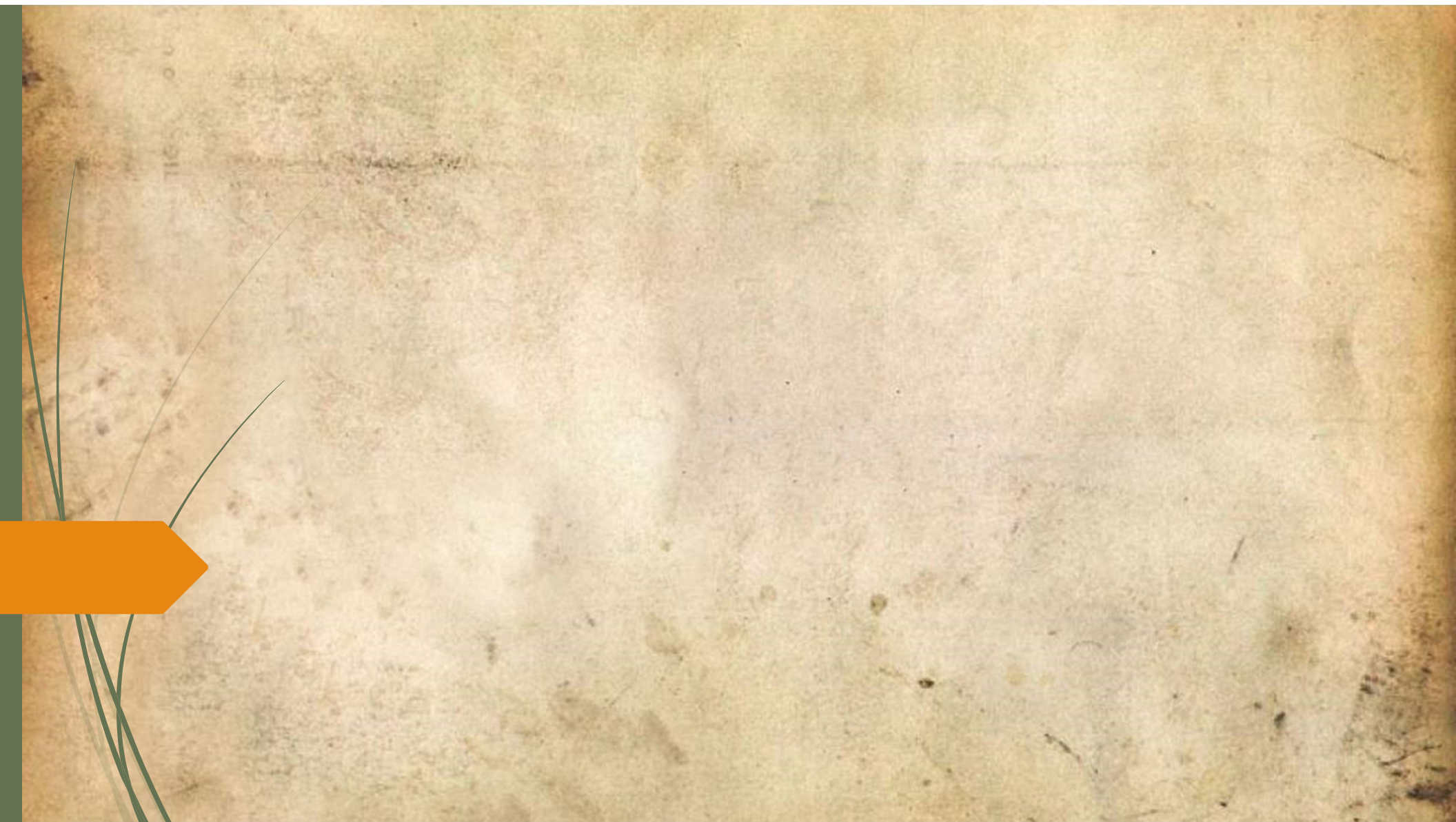
- ▶ First woman to enlist in the Marine Corps on 13 August 1918



## 1920: John Lejeune

- ▶ 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps
- ▶ He was the first Marine officer to hold an Army divisional command
- ▶ Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, bears his name







# USMC WWII







## 1941: Wake Island

- On Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1941, the Empire of Japan attacked Wake Island
- For two weeks the small detachment of Marines held off the invasion force, causing an extraordinary number of Japanese casualties and damage to the invading force





## 1942: Guadalcanal

- 7 August 1942, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal
- This was the first United States land offensive in WWII
- This was the first combat test of the new amphibious doctrine
- Opened the rest of the Pacific for future landings

## 1942: John Basilone

- ▶ Received Medal of Honor during Guadalcanal campaign
- ▶ October 1942, his unit came under attack by 3,000 soldiers. Japanese forces began a frontal attack and fought for the next two days until only Basilone and two other Marines were left standing. When the ammunition ran out shortly before dawn on the second day, Basilone, using his pistol and a machete, held off the Japanese soldiers attacking his position.
- ▶ Posthumous Navy Cross during Battle of Iwo Jima





## 1942: Montford Point Marines



- 1942 African Americans had the opportunity to be recruited into the Marines
- During the first seven years, these Marines were segregated from normal recruit training sites
- These Marines were sent to Montford Point, NC
- Montford Point renamed Camp Johnson to honor Sergeant Major Gilbert H. "Hashmark" Johnson in 1974



## 1942: Navajo Code Talkers



- Fluent speaking Navajo Indians were recruited to participate in the most successful military code ever created, and never broken
- Radio operators participated in every island-hopping campaign of the Pacific
- Saved countless lives just by speaking their native language



## 1943: Tarawa



- Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 1943, Marines landed on the Tarawa Atoll - A small strip of land less than 300 acres that is no higher than 15 feet above sea level
- The Japanese commander said it would take a million Americans 100 years to conquer it. Marines secured the island in 76 hours



## 1945: Mariana Islands



- An island chain which is made up of Saipan, Guam, and Tinian
- These islands were taken for airfields needed by the U.S. Army Air Forces and advanced bases needed for the Navy
- The invasion force totaled 136,000, which was the biggest force to operate under Marine command at the time



## 1945: Iwo Jima



- 19 Feb 1945, an all Marine force landed on Iwo Jima. This turned out to be the bloodiest battle in history.
- After 36 days of battle, there were over 23,000 American casualties and over 20,000 Japanese soldiers died.
- The taking of Iwo Jima made it possible for American bombers to reach mainland Japan

# Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima



- Iconic photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal on February 23, 1945.
- Pharmacist's Mate 2<sup>nd</sup> Class John Bradley raised the original, smaller flag on Mount Suribachi prior to the picture and was misidentified until 2016.





## CPL Ira H. Hayes

Corporal Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian, was one of the Marines immortalized in the now famous photograph taken of the second flag raising incident on Mount Suribachi shortly after the Japanese stronghold was taken on 23 February 1945.

“

UNCOMMON VALOR WAS  
A COMMON VIRTUE

”

**Admiral Nimitz's quote describing the  
actions of Marines during the Battle of Iwo  
Jima**

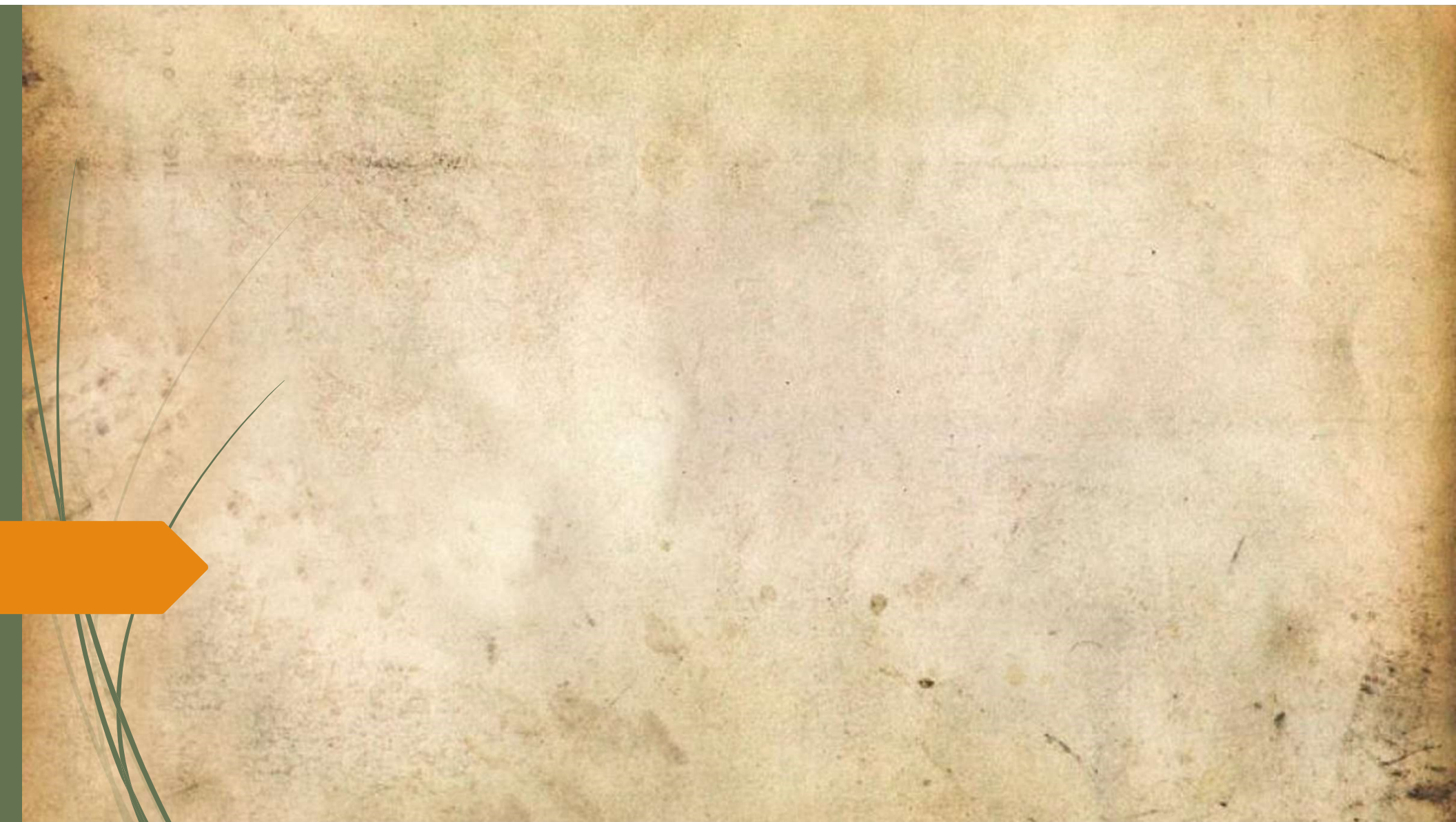


## 1945: Okinawa



- In April 1945, Marines and Soldiers landed on and secured the island of Okinawa
- This was the last large action of WWII









Korea





## 1950: Chosin Reservoir

- In the winter of 1950 Marines pushed into North Korea
- Surrounded by 10 Chinese Divisions
- Destroyed 7 Divisions, bringing out all wounded and dead Marines and all operational gear (even some Army equipment which they asked for back)
- Marines forced to use frozen Chinese corpses to improve fighting positions



## 1950: William “Chesty” Puller



- Fought through Nicaragua, WWII and Korea
- Lead Marines through the Chosin Reservoir
- The most highly decorated Marine in history with 5 Navy Crosses



A photograph showing several Marines in a dense, brushy area. One Marine in the foreground is looking towards the camera, while others are focused on dragging a body out of the undergrowth. The scene is somber and depicts the aftermath of a battle.

## Vietnam

- ▶ Marines dragging the body of 2nd Lt. Donald Jacques, 20, out of the underbrush near Khe Sanh on Feb. 25, 1968



## 1967: PFC James Anderson Jr.



- ▶ First Black Marine to be awarded Medal of Honor
- ▶ Saved his platoon by jumping on a grenade thrown during an enemy ambush



## 1968: Hue



- Initiated during the Tet Offensive 1968
- Began to negatively impact public opinion of the Vietnam War



## 1968: Battle of Khe Sanh



- Initiated during the Tet Offensive
- 5 months and 18 days, Khe Sanh Combat Base and the hilltop outposts around it were under constant North Vietnamese ground, artillery, mortar, and rocket attacks.



## 1969: HM2 David R. Ray



- ▶ Most recent Corpsman (non SEAL) Medal of Honor recipient
- ▶ Mortally wounded while treating Marines held off the enemy until he ran out of ammunition. While treating his last patient HM2 Ray jumped on a wounded Marine as a nearby grenade exploded, saving the Marine's life.
- ▶ Deployed to Quang Nam Province, Vietnam with 2/11 out of Camp Pendleton.



# Desert Storm/Shield



- Members of the 3rd Tank Battalion, 1ST Marine Division, assigned to Task Force Ripper





## 1990: Desert Shield

- 1990 - Operation Desert Shield was launched to stop the Iraqi forces from advancing further into Kuwait

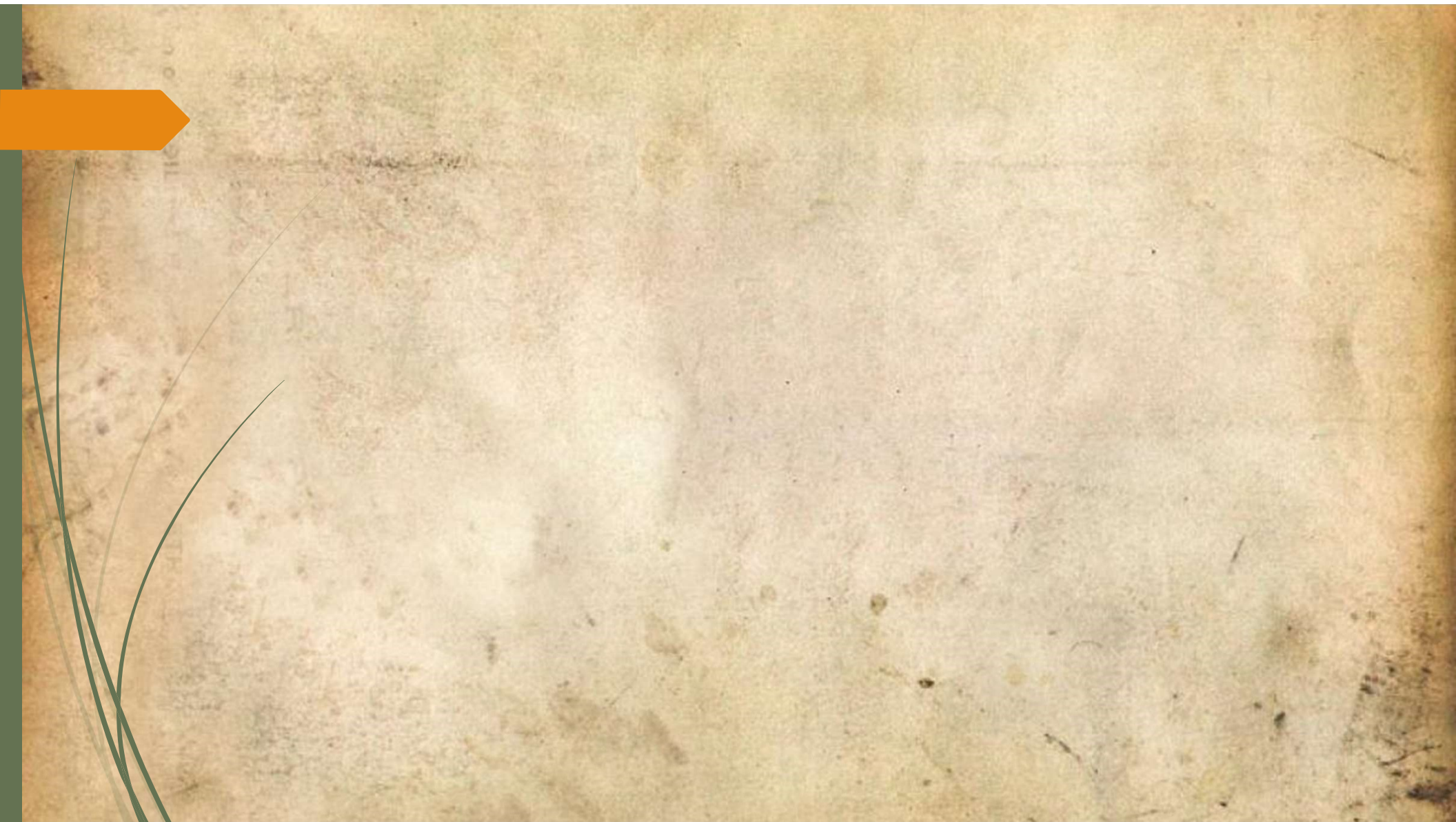


# 1991: Desert Storm



- 1991 – Operation Desert Storm was launched after the Iraqi government refused to comply with United Nations resolutions
- Marine forces swept through Kuwait and liberated the country







A dramatic silhouette scene at sunset. In the foreground, a soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet and a large backpack, is seen from behind, walking towards the right. In the background, a group of other soldiers are walking in the same direction. To the left, a large military helicopter is parked, its main rotor blades and tail rotor visible. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple, indicating the time is either dawn or dusk. The overall mood is somber and focused.

OIF, OEF, OIR



A full-page background image showing the silhouette of a soldier in the foreground on the left, looking towards a helicopter in the distance. The scene is set against a dramatic sunset sky with orange and purple hues. A large orange arrow points to the right, partially overlapping the soldier's silhouette. The title text is overlaid in the bottom right area.

# 2001: Operation Enduring Freedom



# Nawa



- 2009 - 1st Bn, 5th Marines occupied this district as part of Operation Strike of the Sword
- Was considered to be a main part of the Taliban movement in the Helmand Province
- 2011 – Nawa was the first district to be turned over to a complete Afghan control



# Marjah



- In 2010, Marines from 1st Bn, 6th Marines moved into what was believed to be the last Taliban stronghold in Helmand Province
- Marjah was considered to be the highest opium producing district in the entire country



# Sangin

- The heaviest fighting in recent years
- Due to heavy fighting and high numbers of casualties, Marines moved to help with the district
- 7th and 5th Marines, along with 9th and 8th Marines destroyed Taliban fighters in the district





## 2009: Dakota Meyer



- First living Marine to receive the Medal of Honor since Vietnam
- Was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Kunar Province, Afghanistan with Embedded Training Team 2/8
- Purposefully made five trips into an ambush kill zone to locate and extract four Marines who were trapped and killed. He also evacuated over two dozen Afghan soldiers.



## 2010: Kyle Carpenter



- ▶ Youngest living Medal of Honor recipient (born October 1989)
- ▶ Was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions near Marjah, Helmand Province, Afghanistan with 2/9 Fox Company
- ▶ Shielded a fellow Marine, Lance Cpl. Nick Eufrazio from a grenade blast on a rooftop security. Both Marines survived the blast but suffered major injuries. Carpenter lost his right eye and most of his teeth. His jaw and right arm were shattered and he has undergone dozens of surgeries



“

# First to Fight

”

- Marines have been at the forefront of every war
- Their record of readiness reflects pride, responsibility, and challenge.





2003-2011: Operation Iraqi Freedom

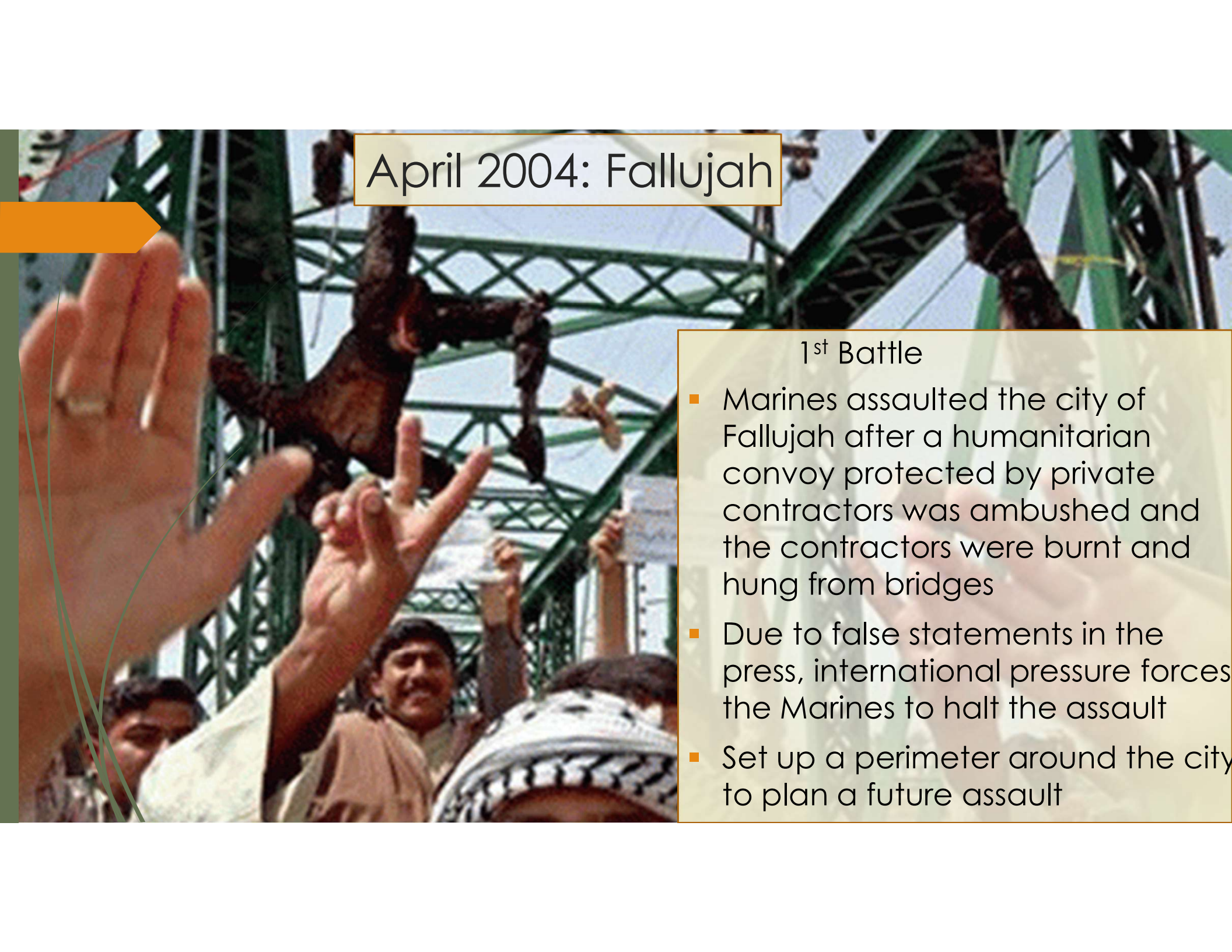




## Nasiriyah

- Major intersection during the initial invasion of Iraq
- Held the two bridges needed for Coalition forces to be able to cross the Euphrates
- As soon as the bridges were secure, a fierce neighborhood sweep of Ba'athist fighters began





## April 2004: Fallujah

### 1<sup>st</sup> Battle

- Marines assaulted the city of Fallujah after a humanitarian convoy protected by private contractors was ambushed and the contractors were burnt and hung from bridges
- Due to false statements in the press, international pressure forces the Marines to halt the assault
- Set up a perimeter around the city to plan a future assault



# November 2004: Fallujah

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle

- During the spring, summer, and fall of 2004, Operation Phantom Fury is planned
- Citizens were told to leave the city if they didn't want to fight
- Fighters were challenged to come fight Marines in the city
- House to house fighting compared to Hue City





## 2004: Jason Dunham



- Posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Husaybah, Al-Karabilah Province.
- First Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor since Vietnam
- Dove on a grenade with helmet and body shielding everyone else in the squad





## 2006 Ramadi

- After Fallujah was secured, the hub of the insurgency moved to Ramadi
- Fighting was intense and frequent. Marines and Soldiers both fought in the city
- Shift happened after a Sunni Sheik, who promoted Iraqis joining the police force, was murdered and desecrated



## General Jim Mattis (Retired)

- Earned notoriety during the 2003 invasion of Iraq to include the First and Second Battles of Fallujah.
- Led US Central Command overseeing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan 2010-2012
- Extremely popular due to unorthodox quotes and support of junior troops.
- Served as Secretary of Defense 2017-2019
- Is frequently celebrated as an intellectual.







# Operation Inherent Resolve



## 2016-Current: Operation Inherent Resolve



- ▶ Operational name for actions against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIL)
- ▶ Operations continue today.



# 2017: Operation Inherent Resolve

- ▶ 11 MEU & 24 MEU fired 35,000 artillery rounds on ISIL targets within 5 months, more than the entire DOD during the invasion of Iraq (34k).
- ▶ Coalition actions have resulted in ISIL losing 95% of their “held” territory.



